

Lord will wipe away tears from off all faces.' To Sergeant Reyes's wife, Christina, and his two young children, his mother Tomasa and his brother Roger, the thoughts and prayers of an entire Nation go with you during this difficult time. Luis served this Nation with honor and distinction and has left all of us forever in his debt. For that, we all offer our humble thanks.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST GREGORY L. TULL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of our country's bravest, SPC Gregory L. Tull of Pocahontas, IA. Specialist Tull sadly died November 25, 2005, after an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee in Al Anbar province in Iraq. Specialist Tull served with the Iowa Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery based in Storm Lake, IA. He was only 20 years old.

I ask that all Americans join me in remembering and honoring Specialist Tull. He was an upstanding and courageous soldier who fell far before his time. Our country has survived these many years due to the brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, and it greatly saddens me to announce that another young man has made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and for the freedom of Iraq.

LTC Gregory Hapgood of the Iowa Army National Guard remembered that Specialist Tull was "a good guy that didn't shrink from responsibility," and was someone who "wanted in on the action." During this crucial time in America's history, we should all remember Greg Tull's courage and dedication to his country.

We should also stand with Specialist Tull's parents, Eileen and Gary, and his brother, Bryan, and all his family in their time of grief. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to Gregory's friends, classmates, and all others who were lucky enough to know him. Greg Tull did not die in vain, but rather gave his life defending America and promoting freedom around the world. He will be sorely missed but also fondly remembered.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, December 1, was World AIDS Day, and I wanted to take this time to both acknowledge the good work that is done around world to prevent and treat this disease and to acknowledge the need is still great around the world and in our own country to fund prevention, treatment, and support.

AIDS kills 3 million people each year, and 13,500 people are newly infected each day. AIDS has already left 15 million orphans in its wake. The theme of World AIDS Day 2005 was "Keeping the Promise." To date, the United States has led the world in contributions to the Global Fund, providing one-third of all contributions. However, the statistics tell us that while we have come far, we still have

far to go in preventing this tragic disease, including here at home.

We have experienced many medical miracles in the form of drugs that help people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS live healthier longer. Yet, we seem to be able to fund less and less of the services that help individuals stay healthy and maintain the structure of their lives.

I was recently visited by constituents who were either HIV positive or had full-blown AIDS. They told many moving stories about how their lives had been made better by programs that help them get health services, pay for their drugs, rent and provide other support services. Many of these programs are through the Ryan White Act.

The unmet need grows daily. For example, in Portland, the Russell Street Dental Clinic provides about \$60,000 worth of services to HIV patients each month compared with about \$15,000 a month 3 years ago. In 2003, a study was released that documented the service gaps in Oregon. The list of services for which there is not enough funding to meet the need is long and includes dental care, help with legal affairs, counseling, housing and help in paying rent or utilities, and transportation.

Despite an increased number of people living with HIV/AIDS, Ryan White funding has decreased. Many of the programs my constituents tell me help them are through Title I of the Ryan White Act. This title provides the vital core services of Medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, dental care, and case management.

The Oregon AIDS Drug Assistance Program has had to change eligibility and take other steps to limit enrollment because of budget constraints. This program helps individuals with their drug costs. I view it as a wise investment because it helps people stay healthier, working, and productive.

What I have heard from my constituents is sheer frustration that the programs they know work are yet again on the chopping block. I share their frustration. An investment in health care, whether abroad or in our own country, an investment in a community and in making that community healthier. I hope Congress keeps this in mind as we face difficult decisions about funding in the future.

I ask unanimous consent that my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PAKISTAN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, this past year, the world has witnessed multiple natural disasters including the tsunami in South Asia and Hurricane Katrina in the gulf coast. Most recently, the devastating earthquake that struck northern Pakistan in early October has been equally catastrophic. More than 73,000 people were killed in the immediate aftermath, while tens of thousands more were wounded. Just as troubling, millions more have been left

homeless having lost their life's possessions in this tragic event.

As Pakistan approaches the bitter winter months, many are still without adequate shelter. The United Nations estimates that at least 350,000 will remain in the mountainous regions of Pakistan through the winter and will require sufficient food and materials to winterize their tents in order to survive. Exacerbating the situation is the recent cancellation of helicopter sorties that deliver humanitarian relief due to deteriorating weather conditions. In addition, UNICEF is conducting a massive immunization campaign to vaccinate individuals from the measles following an outbreak at a camp outside of Muzaffarabad in early December. For all these reasons, it is imperative that countries honor their commitments to this ravaged country to ensure humanitarian relief is provided to the victims of this tragedy.

To date, the international community and private industries have pledged aid for relief and reconstruction, and the United States has led the effort. After recognizing that our original pledge of \$50 million would be inadequate to assist the victims, the United States substantially increased the amount of aid to Pakistan by pledging a total of \$510 million.

In addition, the United States has provided rescue teams and aircraft to assist in locating victims in remote areas. The U.S. military has helped deliver humanitarian supplies, as well as evacuating casualties from the region. Currently a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, MASH, unit has been established in the most devastated parts of the country to perform urgent surgery and attend to less critical patients.

While I applaud these efforts, we should remember that Pakistan has been a critical ally in the war on terror. Unfortunately, our image in the Muslim world has been distorted through propaganda and misperceptions of America's intent in the Middle East. Humanitarian aid can assist in dispelling these myths and will clearly demonstrate that the American people are deeply compassionate toward all those in need.

With the upcoming winter months, it will be vital that the international community continue to honor the commitments it has made to Pakistan. I believe that the United States should lead these efforts. We have a moral obligation to reach out and assist those who are so desperately in need, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the victims of this earthquake receive adequate humanitarian assistance.

ALLOWING A CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the future of Air Force TSgt. Jamie Dana and her working military dog Rex.

When our Nation's leaders called thousands of men and women in uniform to liberate Iraq from its most brutal dictator, Technical Sergeant Dana was among those brave citizens for whom the duty to her country comes before all other luxuries. Technical Sergeant Dana joined the Air Force in 1998 and volunteered to serve in Iraq. Her assignment included supporting Army personnel by clearing vehicles at checkpoints and searching buildings for booby traps and explosives. Jamie was never alone while performing her duties in Iraq. She was accompanied by a working military dog, Rex, a 5-year-old German shepherd. The duo had trained together in the military for 3 years and deployed as a team first to Pakistan and then Iraq.

Last June, after completing another mission, Technical Sergeant Dana and Rex were traveling in an armored humvee when a roadside bomb exploded under her seat. She suffered severe wounds resulting in massive internal bleeding that required 19 blood transfusions. "The helicopter ride was the scariest 45 minutes of my life," remembers Major Paul Morton, a member of the medical trauma team who helped save Jamie's life.

Even when facing death, Technical Sergeant Dana never stopped thinking about her friend and comrade Rex. While recuperating from the injuries she suffered in Iraq, Rex has always been in Jamie's prayers. Although her future in the Armed Forces remains uncertain to this day, Dana never questions her decision to go to war. As she stated in a recent interview, "I had begged for it. I wanted to deploy. You want to feel like you're a part of it."

After her military duty is over, Technical Sergeant Dana plans to become a different kind of vet—a veterinarian, a profession that I admire. Dana asked the Air Force for permission to adopt her beloved friend, and I commend the leadership of the Air Force and Senator WARNER for their efforts to find a legislative solution to Jamie's request. I fully support the inclusion of this solution in the Defense authorization conference report. The work of our Nation's military and political leaders demonstrates their willingness to express our humble gratitude to those who proudly wear our Nation's uniform and endanger their lives to protect the freedom that we often take for granted. Jamie's story traveled thousands of miles and warmed the hearts of her fellow Americans, as well as political and military leaders.

A simple act of Congress will allow Technical Sergeant Dana be reunited with Rex. Both Jamie and Rex gave their best in the fight to protect the ideals of liberty and courageously participated in the spread of democracy across the globe. The least this country can do to honor their service is to allow this friendship to continue.

STOLEN VALOR ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today, I join my colleagues, Senators CONRAD, VITTER, SALAZAR, NELSON, JOHNSON, CHAMBLISS, THUNE, HAGEL, ISAKSON, LAUTENBERG, DOLE, and STEVENS, in cosponsoring S. 998, the Stolen Valor Act of 2005.

During this Christmas season, our forces are deployed around the world, and many serve in hostile locations. Our service men and women continue to make great sacrifices abroad to ensure our safety here at home. It is our duty to recognize and honor that sacrifice and heroism. Unfortunately, some civilians have created elaborate lies to claim some of this honor as their own.

I am disturbed by stories of these despicable frauds who have tried to falsify heroic military records. These people wear medals that they did not earn, and claim honors which they do not deserve. This type of lie strikes at the very heart of the honor of our military and our Nation.

We must act now to protect the reputation of our military heroes with the full force of law. Those who seek to steal recognition that they have not earned must be held accountable and brought to justice. The Stolen Valor Act of 2005 does just that by enhancing penalties for making false claims in regard to personal medals awarded for combat action and valor, such as the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, or Congressional Medal of Honor. This law will allow law enforcement officials to prosecute individuals who falsely claim to be recipients of these awards, and perpetrators may receive a sentence of up to 1 year as a result.

As a veteran, I will always seek to protect the honored place of our military heroes. I cherish the sacrifices of all veterans, and I will continue to do everything in my power to support and protect their interests. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.

REPUBLICAN JEWISH COALITION AD SUPPORTING WAR ON TERROR

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, Freedom is Worth Fighting For. That is the headline of a full page advertisement today in The New York Times. I was proud to add my name to this strong statement in support of our troops and our President in fighting the war on terror. The ad is sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition, a grassroots organization based in Washington, DC, with five full-time offices, 41 chapters, and over 20,000 members across our Nation.

The ad takes strong exception to a resolution approved last month by about 2,000 members of the Union for Reform Judaism—URJ—at a convention in Houston. The URJ resolution

said, "American Jews, and all Americans, are profoundly critical of this war and they want this administration to tell us how and when it will bring our troops home," and called the Iraq war "unjust." The resolution reversed a 2002 URJ endorsement of the war and, according to news accounts, was adopted with very limited debate and only one person speaking against it.

As the Republican Jewish Coalition ad states, the URJ statement that American Jews oppose President Bush on Iraq is misleading and wrong. The URJ does not speak for me. Nor does it speak for all reform Jews or for the American Jewish community.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ad carries the signatures of 180 leaders and prominent figures in the Jewish community. In addition to my name, among those signing the newspaper ad are my colleague in the other body Representative ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, and two former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, James Tisch and Kenneth Bialkin. Other signers include rabbis and cantors; as well as State and local elected officials.

The Republican Jewish Coalition ad contains several other important messages. It notes that we support the President and the war on terror. We stand behind our troops and their mission of creating a safe, democratic Iraq. This mission is vital, says the ad, not only for the continuing fight against terrorism and the stability of the Middle East, but also for making the world a safer place for our children. I believe this message of support is particularly important as the Iraqi people prepare to vote for a permanent government later this week.

We can never surrender to terrorism. Those who attacked us on September 11, 2001, will not hesitate to do so again if given the opportunity. We dare not encourage them by weakness and vacillation in our unrelenting war on terror.

I commend the Republican Jewish Coalition for its leadership on this vital issue. I am proud to stand with them in defense of freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER DAVID MARIN ROMERO: IN MEMORIAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Today I rise to honor and share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, Officer David Marin Romero of the California Highway Patrol. Officer David Marin Romero spent 23 years with the California Highway Patrol, providing the citizens of California with safety and service. On September 23, 2005, while on motor patrol in the city of Industry, Officer Romero was struck and killed by a driver suspected to be under the influence of a controlled substance.